



# FORUM

Facts, Outcomes, & Research... Useful for Managing

## TYPES AND FREQUENCY OF INCIDENTS REPORTED

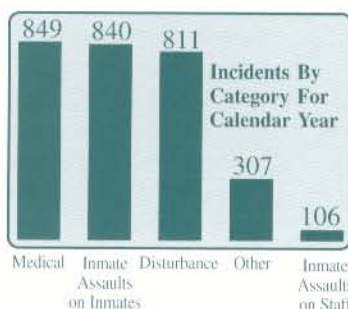
BY CLINT CATRON

A national effort to establish a consistent set of performance indicators across the various state departments of corrections has been underway for several years. Under the leadership of the Association of State Correctional Administrators, departments have reviewed their current "critical indicator" systems and began thinking about ways of obtaining additional data for items of interest to other jurisdictions. Several of the items that will be included in the final set of indicators are ones that the Washington State Department of Corrections includes in the Tele-Incident Reporting System. One important indicator is incidents.

An incident, as defined by Washington State Department of Corrections, is an event, occurrence, episode, disturbance, or conflict. It can be further expanded to include situations that threaten the orderly and secure operations of a facility. Type of incidents can vary from feces watch to an inmate disturbance. Incidents are reported in the Offender Based Tracking System (OBTS) using the Tele-Incident Report (TIR). The 2002 Incident Report is the first of its kind for Washington State and in the future will be reported annually. All incidents in this report were offender based, involving one or more inmates. For purposes of this report, security and custody levels are interchangeable. Incidents were categorized into 5 different categories: Inmate assault on inmates, Medical, Disturbances, Inmate assaults on staff, and Other. Incident rates are compared by type of incident, custody level, inmate characteristics and estimated length of stay. The following summarizes the findings.

### Type

Of the 2,913 inmate related incidents recorded in 2002, 849 were medical related, 840 were inmate assault on other inmates, 811 were general disturbances, 307 were categorized into other, and 106 were inmate assaults on staff. Incidents averaged about 243 a month, with a high of 275 and a low of 198.



### Custody

A positive relationship exists between custody level and frequency of incidents; as the custody level increases (minimum to maximum) so does the rate of incidents. Once the rate by population of custody is established and compared, the relationship can be seen. The highest rate by custody level is 647.1 for maximum. Then next highest is close with a rate of 379.2. Medium custody followed up with 118.2. Lastly was minimum custody with 69.9.

### Inmate Characteristics

There is no significant difference in race when incidents are compared to the state's overall prison population percentage. The percentage of whites involved in incidents was 68.7 compared to 70 for the state's prison population percentage. Twenty-three percent of the inmates involved



## FOR YOUR INFORMATION..

### BOOK/PUBLICATION OF THE MONTH

The Criminal Justice System In Washington State: Incarceration Rates, Taxpayer Costs, Crime Rates, and Prison Economics

This report reviews basic information on Washington's criminal justice system and the level of crime in the state. The purpose is to provide a "big picture" summary of long-term trends and relationships. Available on-line or in the Planning and Research library.

<http://www.wsipp.wa.gov/crime/pdf/SentReport2002.pdf>

### WEB SITE OF THE MONTH

Visit the BJS *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics* and review data from more than 100 sources about all aspects of criminal justice in the United States.

<http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/>

### DEFINITION OF THE MONTH

**Interrater Reliability:** The extent to which two different researchers obtain the same result when using the same instrument to measure a concept.

### DOC MONTHLY STATISTICS AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2003

#### CONFINEMENT POPULATION ..... 16,483

Total Confinement ..... 15,544

Work Release ..... 703

Out of State Rented Beds ..... 236

#### COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS POPULATION

ACTIVE SUPERVISION ..... 33,802

RMA ..... 7,070

RMB ..... 6,026

RMC ..... 10,952

RMD ..... 6,100

Monetary ..... 34,896

Unclassified ..... 3,654

INACTIVE STATUS ..... 25,674

### ESCAPES FROM SECURITY LEVELS 2-5, FOR FY04

	Date	Type	Return
Stafford Creek	08/29/03	Facility	08/29/03
Ahtanum View	09/01/03	Facility	09/08/03
TPR	10/29/03	Off-Site	N/A
MCC-TRU	11/01/03	Facility	11/09/03

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in incidents were black. The overall states' prison population percentage for black's was 22.

